

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SY-03

TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 AID-20

IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 /205 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:RHMUNN:BB
APPROVED BY S/NM:HRWELLMAN
NEA/TUR:RDILLON
NEA/RA:TGRANT
NEA/P:JBRIGGS
IO/HDC:LCAVANAUGH
S/PRS:PHARE

----- 026170

R 292218Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS STATE 063831

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: TURKISH OPIUM BAN: GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO
INQUIRIES

1. FOLLOWING ON TURKISH OPIUM SITUATION IS FOR YOUR
INFORMATION AND USE IN RESPONDING TO ANY INQUIRIES
RECEIVED.
2. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED US THAT, ALTHOUGH
POLITICAL PARTIES IN TURKEY FEEL THAT THE PRESENT BAN
ON OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION AND CONSEQUENCES ARISING FROM
IT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, GOT HAS NOT REPEAT
NOT YET MADE A DECISION REGARDING THE POSSIBLE RESUMPTION
OF POPPY GROWING. THE GOT HAS ALSO TOLD US THAT,
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EVEN IF THE BAN WERE TO BE LIFTED, NO PLANTING WOULD BE

UNDERTAKEN BEFORE THE FALL SEASON. THEY HAVE ASSURED US THEY WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FULLY WITH US BEFORE ANY DECISION IS TAKEN.

3. ON OUR PART, WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE BELIEVE THE TURKISH OPIUM BAN HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN REDUCING THE FLOW OF HEROIN TO THE UNITED STATES. WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE ILLICIT OPIUM FLOW ACHIEVED BY THE BAN AND THE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE TURKEY HAS PLAYED IN STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL CONTROLS OVER SMUGGLING. WE HAVE ALSO

SAID THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE.

4. "BACKGROUND

A. "FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, ONE WIDELY SHARED IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, IT WAS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE IN 1971 TO FIND AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO CLOSE OFF SOURCES OF ILLICIT OPIUM TO NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS. IT WAS NEVER A SECRET THAT MOST OF THE HEROIN DISTRIBUTED IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES WAS REFINED FROM RAW OPIUM GROWN IN TURKEY AND DIVERTED TO THE ILLICIT TRADE: TURKEY HAD UP TO THAT TIME NOT BEEN ABLE TO EXERCISE EFFECTIVE CONTROLS.

B. "A TOTAL BAN ON POPPY GROWING PROMISED TO BE THE MOST IMMEDIATELY EFFECTIVE WAY OF CUTTING OFF THE ILLEGAL FLOW. IT WAS THE EASIEST TECHNIQUE TO ENFORCE, AND THE LEAST EXPENSIVE IN TERMS OF MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS. IT WAS A HIGHLY DRAMATIC RESPONSE ON TURKEY'S PART TO THE OBVIOUSLY CRITICAL NATURE OF THE PROBLEM. IT WAS A SIGNAL TO OTHERS THAT SIGNIFICANT STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO COMBAT ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING.

C. "THE BAN WAS EFFECTIVE. THE FLOW OF RAW MATERIAL TO THE TRADITIONAL EUROPEAN PROCESSORS IS DOWN TO A TRICKLE, PRODUCING SIGNIFICANT SHORTAGES. AT THE RECENT MEETING IN GENEVA OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, MANY NATIONS PAID TRIBUTE TO THE

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IMPORTANCE OF TURKEY'S HAVING SHUT OFF SOURCES OF ILLICIT OPIUM. ALONG WITH OTHERS THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES IT WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC TO TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO TRAFFICKERS TO OBTAIN NEW SUPPLIES OF OPIUM IN TURKEY.

D. "OUR CLEAR RECOGNITION THAT THE BAN ALSO AFFECTED LEGITIMATE INTERESTS AND HONEST MEN IN TURKEY LED US TO

ASSIST IN COMPENSATING THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FOR ITS LOSS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE INCOME AND TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO DEVELOP NEW SOURCES OF INCOME FOR THOSE AFFECTED. A NEW INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE WAS FORMED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO SUPERVISE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT. MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, BUT MORE REMAINS TO BE DONE: ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF THE FUNDS WE PLEDGED FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ARE AS YET UNSPENT BY TURKISH AUTHORITIES. IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS RIGHTLY CONCERNED AT THE PLIGHT OF LEGITIMATE FARMERS.

E. "CRIMINAL ELEMENTS ALSO HOPE FOR RESUMPTION OF POPPY CULTIVATION. THEY STAND TO GAIN HUGE PROFITS IF THEY ARE ABLE TO DIVERT OPIUM INTO ILLICIT CHANNELS AS BEFORE. THIS MUST NOT HAPPEN. THE GOT IN ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH US TO DATE HAS CONSISTENTLY MADE CLEAR ITS DETERMINATION TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO MAINTAIN THE DEGREE OF CONTROL OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING THUS FAR ACHIEVED.

F. "WE, ON OUR PART, ARE URGING THE GOT TO MAINTAIN THE BAN ON POPPY CULTIVATION. WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO THE GOT THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO EXPLORE FURTHER WAYS IN WHICH DEVELOPMENT IN THE FORMER POPPY REGION CAN BE ACCELERATED AND BROADENED TO INSURE THAT NO LEGITIMATE INTEREST SUFFERS. WE WILL WORK ACTIVELY TO ENLIST ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM OTHER NATIONS WHO BENEFIT FROM TURKEY'S STAND." KISSINGER

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